The Rideau Heights Regeneration project represents a partnership between the City of Kingston, the Kingston & Frontenac Housing Corporation (KFHC) and the Rideau Heights neighbourhood to develop a community redevelopment strategy. Since the summer, members of the Regeneration Team have been meeting with Rideau Heights KFHC residents to hear the community’s ideas for Rideau Heights.

Our goal for today

Today we’d like to provide information about the Regeneration process including what we’ve heard from residents so far, and to get your feedback on changes you’d like to see happen in Shannon Park and the new community centre.

Agenda:

- **6:00** View the panels and meet the team
- **6:30** Presentation
- **6:45** Break out and provide feedback
- **7:30** Report Back

Shannon Park today

Splash pad in Shannon Park
The Rideau Heights Regeneration is a project being led by the City of Kingston and Kingston & Frontenac Housing Corporation in order to develop a community regeneration strategy that will ensure Rideau Heights is a healthy, safe, and thriving community.

The Regeneration study will develop a strategy to:

- Improve housing through building new homes or renovating existing homes;
- Ensure the costs of heat, water, and electricity bills is manageable for residents and KFHC;
- Improve parks, pathways, streets and community facilities.

Why is Rideau Heights going through regeneration?

The City of Kingston made supporting North Kingston a key part of its 5-year Strategic Plan. Residents and community partners, along with the City of Kingston and Kingston & Frontenac Housing Corporation, have all recognized the challenges facing Rideau Heights, including keeping up with repairs and maintaining a healthy, safe neighbourhood.

Who is involved in the process?

To help with this important project, the City and KFHC have hired a highly qualified team that have led neighborhood regeneration projects throughout Canada and around the world. This team consists of people skilled in areas such as:

- Urban planning and design,
- Real estate & affordable housing,
- Community consultation,
- Engineering
- Sustainable buildings, infrastructure and utilities

The Process

The City and KFHC has assembled a project team consisting of professionals skilled in neighbourhood regeneration, but it’s important that the changes proposed to the community reflect your ideas and priorities! In order to achieve this, the project team will be working with the community over the course of the project. The timeline above shows the study process and opportunities for you to get involved.
People who live here know Rideau Heights is a strong and resilient community which is continually developing programs and events in a family-oriented atmosphere. There are a number of much-loved community meeting spots here including Shannon Park, Headway Park, and the Wally Elmer Community Centre.

**Rideau Heights by the numbers**

- 29 hectares (72 acres) of land
- Home to approximately 2,000 people
- About 25% of community members are under 15 years old
- 501 KFHC-operated units in 56 buildings
- 73% of these units are row houses
- 27% of these units are in apartment buildings
- 4 Bus routes serve the neighbourhood
- 3 Schools within walking distance
- 2 parks totaling 10 hectares (25 acres)
- 1 Community Centre
“Community animators,” people who live or work in the neighbourhood, have been hired to reach out and listen to what residents have to say throughout the process. Since the summer, the animators have been speaking with residents to understand what they like and don’t like about the area, and what they would like to stay the same or see changed. These next two panels are a summary of what we’ve heard through these conversations.

**What do you value in your neighbourhood?**

- **The people**
- **Parks and green space**
- **Close to amenities, shopping, schools**
- **Park equipment**
- **Activities for kids**
- **Our neighbours**
- **Community services like Better Beginnings and Salvation Army**
- **The Wally Elmer**
- **Grass and trees**
- **Splash pad**
- **Sense of Community**
- **Services like the community centre, daycare, schools, and KCHC**
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What we’ve heard so far

What don’t you like about your community?
What would you like to see changed?

What KFHC is doing right away to address these concerns:

Waste:
- Community clean-up days
- Improved access to recycling service

Communications:
- Install community message boards to post information on events and services

Utility Costs:
- Provide plastic sealing to weatherize windows
- Replace air filters

We want your input!
Do you agree with what others have told us? Have we missed anything?
Let us know your thoughts on the flip charts located beside this panel.
The following principles were developed based on the conversations with residents over the past couple months.

The Rideau Heights Regeneration Strategy will respect the needs and experiences of residents by ensuring that the following principles guide any development and change in the neighbourhood.

**We want your input!**

Do you agree with what others have told us? Have we missed anything? Let us know your thoughts on the flip charts located beside this panel.

1. **Create an affordable, safe and healthy community**
   Utility costs hurt affordability; People need to feel safe in their neighbourhood parks; Streets should be clean. These issues should be tackled to make a healthy community.

2. **Connect the community**
   Connections throughout the neighbourhood and to local services are a key part of what makes this a good neighbourhood.

3. **Support the community**
   Share information and promotion of programs that support residents including local, affordable programs for children and families.

4. **Enhance parks and public spaces**
   Our parks and public spaces are a big part of what makes Rideau Heights a good place to live. Parks should be enhanced to make them more usable for residents. Improvements should support spaces for residents to gather, socialize and grow.

5. **Get the little things right**
   It’s important to fix immediate problems such as neighbourhood cleanliness and property maintenance issues that affect residents’ utility costs rather than only focusing on longer planning.

6. **Build trust through visible success**
   Achievable goals for neighbourhood improvement are important to help build the trust of residents in the regeneration process and should be implemented in the near future.

7. **Achievable, realistic planning**
   Neighbourhood improvements should start small and increase over time through planned phases of work.
What is regeneration?

Regeneration is the process of renewal, restoration and growth. The regeneration strategy provides an opportunity to renew ageing housing and parks while strengthening community and addressing other neighbourhood concerns like health and safety.

Short and long term changes

The strategy will identify improvements should be done in the short term (either immediately or within a year or two) such as sealing leaky windows or better managing garbage pick-up. The strategy also allows us an opportunity to think how longer term changes (things that will take more than two years to do) such as the replacement of existing housing with new types of homes can make the neighbourhood a safer, more inviting place as well as provide housing that is cheaper to maintain.

The following are some of the main issues identified during our conversations so far and examples of things that can be done in the short term or long term to address them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety</th>
<th>More Activities For Kids</th>
<th>Building Quality &amp; Utility Costs</th>
<th>More Stores and Services Close By</th>
<th>Waste</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A year or two</td>
<td>A year or two</td>
<td>A year or two</td>
<td>A year or two</td>
<td>A year or two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better lighting in dark places, more police in the area</td>
<td>Facilitate drop-in sports leagues</td>
<td>Window seals, new finishings, energy system retrofits</td>
<td>Find and install easier and safer ways to get to Division Street</td>
<td>Better access to recycling programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two years or more</td>
<td>Two years or more</td>
<td>Two years or more</td>
<td>Two years or more</td>
<td>Two years or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change the location of buildings or which way they face to provide more eyes on parks and streets</td>
<td>Other park improvements, new facilities</td>
<td>New buildings that are more energy-efficient, remodeling &amp; refinishing of existing homes</td>
<td>Find locations close to Rideau Heights for shops and services, new community facilities</td>
<td>Homes with direct street frontage and curbside pickup</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Shannon Park & the Wally Elmer Community Centre are two of the most valued places in Rideau Heights. Building on past consultation with the community, the City of Kingston is committed to improving both of these places in the next two years.

Today, the Wally Elmer is a community gathering place and hosts many scheduled programs, drop-in activities, special events, and public skating. However, the building is at the end of its life cycle. The construction of a new centre will provide accessible and improved new spaces, as well as a number of new programs.

Shannon Park contains some of Rideau Heights’ most frequented spots including play structures, baseball diamonds, and a modern splash pad. Even with these popular neighbourhood places, Shannon Park can feel unsafe and has room for improvement. There are many dark corners, undeveloped pathways, and unused spaces that could be improved through the redesign.

The City has committed funding to construct a new and improved community centre connected to Rideau Heights Public School, and to improve Shannon Park with new features and other improvements. These projects are two neighbourhood changes that will be completed sooner than some of the other neighbourhood changes proposed through the regeneration strategy. In order to make sure these projects are coordinated with other changes the regeneration strategy might suggest, there’s a need to look at Shannon Park and the area around it right now.
What we already know about Shannon Park

The planning for the new community centre and Shannon Park redesign, are the result of extensive planning and community consultation, starting in 2007, to determine what programs and facilities should be in a new community hub. More recently there was consultation regarding the new skate park in Shannon Park. There are aspects of each project which have already been determined based on feedback that we’ve heard from you:

- The relocation of the community centre connecting to Rideau Heights Public School
- A new skate park
- A new play structure
- A new multi-purpose sports court
- Installation of a new access lane through Shannon Park

What do we want your input on today?

**Layout of the park**
If housing might eventually be replaced, should residences be in the same spot? Or can it be placed somewhere else to make more usable space and increase safety through better views into the park?

**Other park features**
In addition to the splash pad, skate park, play equipment, and sports fields, what else would you like to see in Shannon Park?

**What should the new park access lane be like?**
The planned access lane will provide access and safety for park users by providing greater visibility for park activities. What should this lane look like and where should it go?

*These areas for input are detailed over the next few panels.*
What we already know about the community centre improvements

In November 2013, Council approved $12.5 million for the construction of a new community centre and redevelopment of Shannon Park. The construction of the community centre is a partnership between the City and the Limestone District School Board who will share the facilities. The Plan for the centre is based on previous consultation with community members and service providers, and will ensure neighbourhood residents have accessible and modern facilities.

Facilities currently planned for the community centre

• Youth Room
• Flexible spaces for community organizations
• Computer Lounge to help develop work skills
• Child supervision for parents participating in programming on-site
• Community kitchen for cooking classes and other healthy living programs
• Gymnasium for sports, fitness classes and other social/recreational activities
• City office space providing local services

Consultation and Planning to date:

2006 The City conducts a series of public meetings regarding the re-purposing of three aging arenas, including the Wally. A clear desire to re-purpose the Wally Elmer is heard from the community.

2007 The City, United Way, and KCHC partner to engage the community to understand residents general desire for the re-purposing of the Wally into a community hub, including the sort of spaces and uses a new centre should include. In 2009, United Way conducts further consultation to better understand the specific programs and services to be included in the new community hub.

2010 The City engages CRNC and other community agencies to provide input to a plan to expand the Wally and improve Shannon Park building on past consultation. Council approves the plan to expand the existing facility.

2012 Rather than expand the existing centre, the City partners with the Limestone District School Board to plan and dedicate funds for a new, fully accessible facility beside and connecting to Rideau Heights Public School.
The redesign is an opportunity to make Shannon Park an even better community meeting place and a destination for Kingston residents. A number of new additions to the park will add more things to do, and can improve the way the park feels. This panel provides an overview of the different opportunities for Shannon Park.

**Places to rest**
Picnic tables, benches, or other seating can provide a place to hang out with friends or family, read a book, or just enjoy the weather. These places can be shaded with structures or with trees, and can include amenities such as bicycle parking, water fountains and garbage cans.

**Places to play**
Splash pads and play structures provide activities for kids and families. Playgrounds can be designed for specific age groups in mind so younger and older kids have places to play.

**Places to get active**
Baseball diamonds, a skate park and soccer fields are all places that provide an opportunity to stay active, have fun, and get to know your neighbours.

**Places to learn**
Community gardens, stormwater areas, and native plantings provide an opportunity to get closer with nature.

**Ways to get around**
New pathways and a new access lane will provide new ways to get through the park. It will also allow more opportunities for people to move through the park, which means more people to keep an eye on things, resulting in a safer park environment. The exact location of the access lane has yet to be decided, but there are a number of things we already know about what it will look like.

Any access lane through Shannon Park will:
- be narrower than other streets in the neighbourhood
- make sure cars move slowly in the park through the use of speed bumps or other measures
- have frequent and safe crossings
The Regeneration Strategy provides an opportunity to consider the rearrangement of streets and blocks in the neighbourhood, or changes to the direction that these homes face.

With Shannon Park, there are opportunities to rethink the location of 80 Daly Street. The design options on this panel show a few possibilities of how the housing and the park can be rearranged.

We want to know what you think about these ideas!

When looking at the different concepts, think about these things:

- Does this make more usable park space?
- How would it feel with wider entrances on the park?
- Will this park layout feel safer?

Let us know what you think about these options on the poster paper beside this panel.

Option 1: Keep 80 Daly as it is today, install new lane, court, skate park and playground.

Option 2: Reconfigure 80 Daly for more park space, install new lane across northern edge of park.

Option 3: Rebuild 80 Daly on other side of park and move soccer fields to Daly Street. Build new road, court, skate park and playground.
What you need to know about the Shannon Park Redesign

There won't be a loss of park space. While the layout of Shannon Park might change, the total park area will stay roughly the same.

This is work in progress. There’s still a lot of discussion to be had about the type of housing improvements in the rest of Rideau Heights, what new housing might look like, and where it will go. Today we want to get a sense of what you’d like to see to help shape the decisions we make when planning the redesign.

What else would you like to see in Shannon Park?

We’ve compiled a number of different things that might go in Shannon Park. Take a look at them on the table beside this panel and post the ones you’d like to see in Shannon Park on the large map on the wall.

These images show what some of the park improvements could look like.
Thank You!

Thank you for attending today’s open house.
You can check our website in a couple weeks for a summary of what we heard today, and more detailed information on the redevelopment of Shannon Park and next steps:
www.cityofkingston.ca/housing

If you have any questions or comments after today’s event, let us know!

Please Contact:
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Drop your comments off with us today or contact us anytime!